



DEVOTIONAL FOR LUKE 16-18; JOHN 11

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"At 11:40 on 14 April, lookout Frederick Fleet spotted an iceberg immediately ahead of Titanic and alerted the bridge. First Officer William Murdoch ordered the ship to be steered around the iceberg and the engines to be reversed, but it was too late. The starboard side of Titanic struck the iceberg, creating a series of holes below the waterline. It soon became clear that Titanic would sink" (Wikipedia).

In 1997 I saw Titanic on the big screen. (Note: I am not recommending a movie I saw in my 20's.) Passengers were accurately portrayed - dressed in fancy clothes, being handed glasses of champagne, and the orchestra instructed to play a lively tune to set the crowd at ease. I remember watching the scene play out and unable to process the casualness with which they approached the impending disaster. They did not believe the ship would sink.

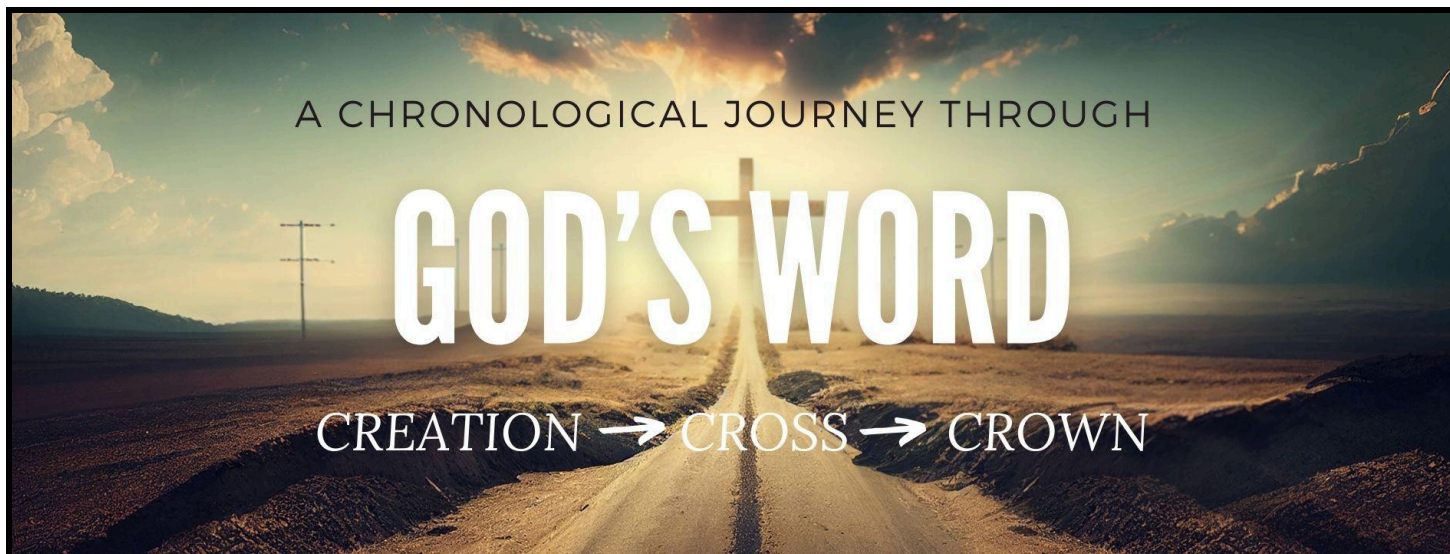
Speaking of the Kingdom of God in our passage, Jesus explains to his disciples that "They were eating and drinking and marrying and being given in marriage, until the day when Noah entered the ark, and the flood came and destroyed them all (Luke 17:27).

He goes on to speak of "the days of Lot - eating and drinking, buying and selling, planting and building...until fire and sulfur rained down from heaven and destroyed them all" (Luke 17:28, 29).

The Titanic did sink. The flood did destroy the earth. Sodom and Gomorrah did collapse in ruin - just as was told. This world will end one day, and Jesus will return.

It is God's desire for all to be saved. And he wants it to be our desire that all are saved. In the first epistle of Timothy, he urges us "that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for all people, for kings and all who are in high positions, that we may lead a peaceful and quiet life, godly and dignified in every way. This is good, and it is pleasing in the sight of God our Savior who desires all people to be saved and come to the knowledge of the truth" (1 Timothy 2:1-4).

Of the 2208 people on board the Titanic, only 712 survived. Of the entire population of the earth in the days of Noah, only 8 survived. And only Lot and his two daughters survived the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah. All were warned, but only a few listened, obeyed, and escaped death.



The Son of Man [Jesus] came to seek and to save the lost (Luke 19:10). He came first as a lamb – in humility and gentleness. With love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control, he draws us into relationship. “If you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved” (Romans 10:9).

When we make Jesus the king of our hearts, we belong to a kingdom not of this earth. A kingdom that cannot be shaken. Consider the warning in Hebrews 12:25: “See that you do not refuse him who is speaking. For if they did not escape when they refused him who warned them on this earth, much less will we escape if we reject him who warns from heaven.”

If you accept Jesus as your king, believe that God raised him from the dead, and confess that you no longer wish to belong to this earthly kingdom, but under his reign and authority – you will be saved.

Jesus is coming back a second time. “Then will appear in heaven the sign of the Son of Man, and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven with power and great glory” (Matthew 24:30). Will you be saved, or will you be lost?

Questions:

1. The Romans Road in the Bible is a clear path to salvation. Please follow Romans 3:10, 3:23, 5:8, 5:12, 6:23, 10:9-11, and 10:13 if you want to be saved, or lead others to salvation.
2. If you don't own a Bible, please contact us at pastoraloffice@stonepointchurch.com.
3. Is Jesus the king of your heart?